

Unit 1

Jesus Is Powerful

Bible Memory

Psalm 147:5

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”



Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help kids learn how to use their Bibles so they are immersed in God's Word. See the introductory pages of this teacher guide for details.

Optional Bible Skill Builders and Key Bible Verses

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your session.

Print the Key Bible Verses from the *Resources* CD. Finding and reading the verses will help kids remember each week's Bible lesson. Be sure to send a copy of these verses home, along with the unit family letter.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.21stcc.com.



Lesson	Scripture	Focus
Lesson 1 Jesus Stops a Storm	Mark 4:35-41	♥ Jesus has power over nature.
Lesson 2 Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't Hear	Mark 7:31-37	♥ Jesus has amazing power.
Lesson 3 Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't See	John 9:1-11, 24, 25, 35-38	♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Immerse Materials for Unit 1

Early Elementary Activities

Lessons 1-3 and the Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes and stickers

Early Elementary Teaching Pictures

Lessons 1-3

Early Elementary Resources

Visuals

Sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes and Bible Story Stick Puppets 2a, 2b/2c, 2d-2j; sheet 4 Pictures of Power Cards (lesson 1) and Bible Story Time Line and Puppet 3a/3b, 3c-3g

CD

Audio Tracks

- Track 1 Bible Story for lesson 1
- Track 2 Bible Story for lesson 3

Printable Files

- Classroom Tools (attendance chart, bookmarks, name tags, Old and New Testament posters)
- Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)
- Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)
- Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster, Family Letter, Key Bible Verses, Optional Bible Skills, Review Questions (also provided by lesson), Worship Time ideas
- Buzzy Bee Letters, lessons 1-3
- Additional files: Step Forward, lesson 1

Weekly Bible Reader student magazine, issues 1-3

Faith & Family online resource

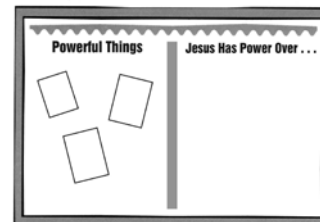
A devotional guide for parents and kids. Go to www.21stcc.com.

Additional Activities for Unit 1

Use these activities for early arrivers, for children who finish activities quickly, and when you are waiting for parents to arrive.

“Jesus Has Power” Bulletin Board

Use construction paper strips to divide a bulletin board in half. Title the left half “Powerful Things.” Have children draw pictures of powerful things, or provide an assortment of images that show powerful things. (An Internet search will give plenty of options!) Let kids attach the pictures to the board. Title the right half of the board “Jesus Has Power Over . . .” As the unit progresses, have kids draw scenes from the Bible stories to add to this side of the board. Emphasize that Jesus has power over everything!



Power Pudding Snack

Give each child a resealable plastic bag and a plastic drinking straw. Help kids measure 2 tablespoons of instant vanilla pudding into their bags, along with ½ cup of evaporated or regular milk. Put a few drops of blue food coloring into each bag. The children should seal their bags securely. (You may want to have kids put their bags into another resealable bag for added security.) Tell kids to use their power to shake and squish the mixture until it is smooth. Have kids wait one minute to let the mixture thicken. Then kids should open their bags just a little, insert a straw, and enjoy the power pudding. As kids enjoy the treat, talk about Jesus’ power to stop a storm and His power to heal people.

Bible Name Hunt

Cut large letters from construction paper to spell out the name of a key Bible story character. Hide the letters around the room. Tell how many letters are in the name. Give a signal and let children search for the letters. When all the letters have been found, the children should try to arrange the letters so that the letters spell the name of that Bible person. If you want children to find more than one name, cut the letters from different colors of paper. This game can be used with any special word you want the children to remember.

Buzzy Bee Letters

Buzzy Bee letters, included on the *Resources* CD, provide a fun way for kids to review the weekly Bible story and focus. Print and distribute copies, or print one copy and post it in a special place where kids can read it. The letters can also be mailed or e-mailed to kids during the week.

Teaching Tip

Be sure to check for milk allergies. Ask parents if their child can have lactose-free milk.

Added Fun!

For more seasonal craft ideas, go to www.21stcc.com and check out Holiday & Seasonal Helps under Downloads/Connect²/Spring Quarter Heartshaper Connect² Feature.



Jesus Stops a Storm

Lesson 1



Scripture: Mark 4:35-41













Bible Memory: Psalm 147:5

Focus: ♥ Jesus has power over nature.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

The Bible says that Jesus' followers were terrified after they saw Jesus stop the storm. Such an obvious display of power could mean only one thing—Jesus is the Son of God! When you see a display of Jesus' power, what is your response? Are you in awe of His power? Do you ponder the greatness of Jesus? Maybe you once again realize that Jesus truly is the Son of God, great and mighty!

Lesson 1 at a Glance

		Immerse Materials	Other Materials
<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>identify powerful forces of nature</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step In the News</p> <p> Option Pictures of Power</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheet 4 Pictures of Power Cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, paper bag • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>describe how Jesus showed His power over nature</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Mark 4:35-41</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory Psalm 147:5</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Picture 1 • Teaching Picture 1 • Resources sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, blue sheets, chairs, cushion, electric fan, spray bottle of water • blue sheets, chairs • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>understand that they can trust in Jesus' power</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Step Forward</p> <p> Option Scary Pictures</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources CD lesson 1 Step Forward printable file • Weekly Bible Reader issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing paper, markers
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>thank Jesus for His power to care for them</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Jesus' Power Flip Book</p> <p> Option Safe, Not Scary</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities pp. 7 and 8 and stickers • Weekly Bible Reader issue 1 and Activities p. 2 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes and stickers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils • pictures drawn in Make It Real Option

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one of these activities to help **children identify powerful forces of nature**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Quick Step In the News

Have children gather in a circle. Ask if any of the children have been in a big thunderstorm. Let them share their experiences. SAY: **Weather forecasters often describe powerful forces of nature. Some forces of nature help us; others can be very harmful. I'm going to describe some storms and other forces of nature. See if you can guess what I am describing.** (Powerful forces of nature to describe: hurricane, tornado, ocean waves, blizzard, volcanic eruption, hailstorm, waterfall, sun, fire)

ASK: **Could you control a big storm or any powerful force of nature? Could anyone?**

SAY: **There are lots of powerful forces of nature that we can't control. But we're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has power over nature.**

Option Pictures of Power

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Let's think about things in nature that are powerful. Words that sometimes describe powerful forces of nature include *mighty, strong, violent, fierce, crushing*. Let's draw some pictures of powerful forces of nature. We'll see if we can guess what is being drawn.**

Explain that you have some pictures of powerful forces of nature in the bag. Ask a volunteer to choose a photo card from the bag and then try to draw on the board what is shown on the card. You can assist as needed. After each picture is guessed, talk about what makes that force of nature so powerful. How can that part of nature help us? How could it be harmful?

SAY: **We can't control the powerful forces of nature. But we're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has power over nature.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

ASK: **What kind of food would you say tastes great? Who would you say is a great person?** Accept children's responses to the questions.

Read aloud Psalm 147:5. SAY: **According to this Bible verse, the Lord is great. We're going to learn that the Lord is not only great, but He's powerful too. In fact, we're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has power over nature.**

Focus

♥ Jesus has power over nature.

Materials

none




Teaching Tips

To make this activity more challenging, begin with general descriptions and then add details.

If you have older children, let them take turns being the newscaster who is describing powerful forces of nature.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 4  Art
Pictures of Power cards, paper bag

Before Class

Separate the photo cards and place them inside a paper bag.



Children with special needs understand concepts better when they are pictured. If a child become anxious about the pictured weather conditions, reassure him that he is safe.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ Jesus has power over nature.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **describe how Jesus showed His power over nature.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

The disciples willingly left the crowd on land and joined Jesus in the boat. Jesus was probably worn out and needed some time away. The body of water they crossed has several names in Scripture, including the Sea of Galilee. It is not unusual for this body of water to have sudden storms.

The storm that came down on Jesus' boat and the accompanying boats was severe. Even the experienced fishermen were panicky. Jesus' sleep was not a sign of indifference; He slept because He knew who was ultimately in charge of the storm.

From Jesus' questions to His disciples, it seems that a person cannot be filled with fear and faith at the same time. This calming of the storm was the first recorded so-called nature miracle. The miracle gave the disciples a glimpse into the Lord's ultimate power over all His creation.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, blue sheets, chairs, cushion, electric fan, spray bottle of water, *Teaching Picture 1*



Before Class

Create a "lake" by covering a large area of the floor with blue sheets. Set chairs in a boat shape on top of the sheets. Lay a cushion at one end of the boat. Place a fan where you or an assistant can turn it on and off. Be sure there is no cord to trip on.

Bible Exploration Mark 4:35-41

Invite children to gather and sit on the floor near the edge of the "lake" you have created. Be sure each child or pair of children has a Bible. SAY: **Today's Bible story comes from the book of Mark.** Write "Mark 4:35" on the board. Help the children turn to Mark 4:35 in their Bibles, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

We're going to experience today's Bible story together. Be sure to listen for how Jesus showed His power over nature.

Jesus had spent the day teaching many people about God. That evening Jesus said to His followers, "Let's go across this lake to the other side." So Jesus and His followers left the crowd and started to cross the lake in a boat. Ask someone to be Jesus. Have that child lead several children into the boat. Note: If you have a small class, you can be a follower. **Other boats were in the water that night too.** Have any other children sit in small groups on the "lake," as though they are in other boats.

Jesus lay down. Have the child playing the role of Jesus rest on the cushion. **Suddenly a strong wind began to blow.** Turn on the fan. **The waves came up over the sides of the boat.** Spray some water. **Soon the boat was almost full of water.**

ASK: **How do you think Jesus' followers felt?** Let the children respond, and then continue the story.

But what was Jesus doing all this time? Was He throwing water out of the boat? Was He worried? No. Jesus was asleep! His followers went to Jesus and woke Him up. "Teacher," they said, "don't you care if we drown?"

ASK: **How would you feel if you were about to drown and it looked as though your leader didn't care about you?**

Then Jesus stood up and spoke to the storm. “Quiet! Be still!” He said. Show *Teaching Picture* 1. The wind died down. Turn off fan. The water became calm. “Why are you so afraid?” Jesus asked. “Do you still have no faith?”

ASK: **What do you think Jesus’ question meant?** Wait for responses.

Jesus wanted His followers to believe in Him. He wanted them to know there is no reason to panic or be afraid, because He is in control of all things. Jesus’ followers were still afraid, but now they were not afraid of the storm. They were afraid because they realized exactly who Jesus is—the Son of God! They said, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **How did Jesus show His power over nature?** (He told the storm to be quiet, and it did!)

SAY: **Let’s see what else you remember from the story.** Lay a blue sheet on the floor to represent the lake. Set chairs in a circle on the “lake,” and ask the kids to sit down. Tell the kids that they are to pass the teaching picture around the circle as they rock back and forth, as though in a windy storm. When you say “Be still,” everyone should stop rocking. Whoever is holding the teaching picture can answer a question from the Bible story. Play as time permits.

ASK: **What happened when Jesus and His followers were crossing the lake?** (A very strong wind began to blow.)
What was Jesus doing during the storm? (sleeping)
What did Jesus do when His followers woke Him? (He stood up and told the storm to be quiet.)
What did Jesus’ followers say after Jesus calmed the storm? (“Even the wind and the waves obey him!”)

SAY: **Jesus’ followers learned that ♥ Jesus has power over nature.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”

Before class, press out the Bible Memory shapes. Attach them vertically or horizontally to a wall (or bulletin board or yardstick). Write “Psalm 147:5” on the board. SAY: **Look in the table of contents in your Bibles to find the book of Psalms.** Give kids time to find the page number of the book. Guide them to find Psalm 147:5, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

Ask kids to join you in reading the phrases on the Bible Memory shapes. Remove the shapes from the wall and randomly give one shape to each child (or pair of children). Tell kids that they are to line up so that the words are in verse order. Help only as needed. When kids have lined up correctly, lead them in saying the verse together. SAY: **Just as this verse says, Jesus is great and powerful. ♥ Jesus has power over nature.**

Story Option

Play the Bible story from the *Resources* CD track 1. Tell children to imagine they are listening to Jesus’ disciples, who are in a boat with Jesus.



Materials

blue sheets and chairs used during Bible Exploration, *Teaching Picture* 1 (optional: *Resources* CD lesson 1 Review Questions printable file)



Teaching Tip

Use the *Resources* CD review questions for more questions to help children review the story.

Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print copies of the unit 1 Optional Bible Skills Activity from the *Resource* CD. Hand out copies of the first page and have the children write in order the names of the first four books of the New Testament. Ask children if they know what Bible stories are found in these four books. (stories of Jesus’ life)



Focus

♥ Jesus has power over nature.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **understand that they can trust in Jesus' power.**

Materials

copy of the *Resources* CD lesson 1 Step Forward printable file



Quick Step Step Forward

SAY: Jesus showed His followers that they didn't need to be afraid. Let's think about times when we might be scared or things we might be afraid of. We'll talk about what we can do to trust in Jesus' power during those times. Identify a goal in the room to be reached. Have kids line up across the room from that goal. Read the statements included on the Step Forward printable file. Let the children respond to each statement. Observe that if they trust Jesus in each situation, they keep moving toward the goal.

ASK: What are some things we can do when we feel afraid? (pray to God, ask an adult or friend to help you, read some verses in the Bible, sing a song about Jesus)

SAY: Jesus is always with us, and ♥ Jesus has power over nature. When you face something that is scary, you can be sure that Jesus has the power to help you.

Materials

drawing paper, markers



Offer help to children by modeling the activity for them first. Provide reassurance that the children are all safe.

If you have kids with high levels of anxiety, consider having them draw something that makes someone else afraid, such as a younger sibling or a character in a movie.

Option Scary Pictures

SAY: Jesus didn't want His followers to be afraid, so He showed them that He is in control of everything—even the forces of nature. Let's draw pictures that show times when we might be scared or things we might be afraid of. We'll talk about what we can do to trust in Jesus' power during those times.

Distribute drawing paper and markers. Encourage children to draw pictures that show times they have been scared or things they have been afraid of. Ask questions if the kids need ideas: "Have you ever been scared when you were alone?" "Are you afraid of large dogs?" "What kind of weather makes you feel scared?" Have volunteers show their pictures.

ASK: What can you do when you begin to feel afraid? (pray to God, ask an adult or friend to help you, read some verses in the Bible, sing a song about Jesus)

SAY: ♥ Jesus has power over nature. When you face something that is scary, you can be sure that Jesus has the power to help you.

Note

Save the pictures for use in Live It Out.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 1



Option Story from *Weekly Bible Reader*

Read the rebus story "A Stormy Morning." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word.

ASK: What did Trent do when he was afraid of the thunder and rain? (prayed to God)
What did Trent do after the sun came out? (praised God)

SAY: ♥ Jesus has power over nature. We do not have to be afraid, because Jesus can help us in any situation. We should remember to praise and thank Jesus for His power.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **thank Jesus for His power to care for them.**

Quick Step Jesus' Power Flip Book

SAY: **♥ Jesus has power over nature, and Jesus has power to help us when we are afraid. We should thank Jesus for His power. And we should tell others about Jesus' power. Let's make a book that will help us remember Jesus' power. We can share the book with others.** Distribute the activity pages, stickers, and other supplies. Explain where to cut and where to fold on the page. Help the children read the story as they open one flap at a time.

ASK: **When has Jesus used His power to help you?** Encourage discussion. Share about a time when Jesus helped you.
Who can you share this book with?
How might knowing about Jesus' power help that person?

Close your class time with prayer. Encourage each child to say a sentence prayer, thanking Jesus for His power. Pray that the children will remember and trust Jesus when they are afraid.

Option Safe, Not Scary

Ask the children to bring the pictures they drew earlier to a closing prayer circle. SAY: **When His followers saw Jesus' power, they said, "Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Let's look at some of the things that frighten us. Then we'll tell Jesus we believe He can help us in those situations.** Explain that you will begin the prayer. After you have named one of the scary situations pictured, you will pause and the children can respond, "Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

SAY: **Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We believe ♥ Jesus has power over nature. We believe Jesus has power to help us when _____** (name something pictured).

We will trust Jesus because . . .

(children): even the wind and the waves obey Him!

We believe Jesus has power to help us when _____ (name something else pictured).

We will trust Jesus because . . .

(children): even the wind and the waves obey Him!

Continue in this manner until you have named all the pictured situations. Then close the prayer: **In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done and the *Activities* page 2 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes and stickers. Stickers are in the middle of *Early Elementary Activities*. Encourage kids to complete the shapes at home by adding the stickers. They can cut out the shapes and then arrange them in order.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Focus

♥ Jesus has power over nature.

Materials

Activities pp. 7 and 8 and stickers, scissors, pencils



Encourage the child with physical or developmental disabilities to do by herself as much of the activity as possible. Offer to assist with cutting and folding as needed, but remember that participation is more important than perfection.

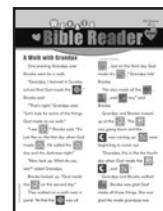
Materials

pictures drawn in Make It Real Option (optional: happy face stickers or marker)



Teaching Tip

Before the children leave, put a happy face sticker on each of their pictures to remind them to trust in Jesus' power and care. Or draw a happy face on each of the children's pictures.



Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't Hear

Lesson 2



Scripture: Mark 7:31-37













Bible Memory: Psalm 147:5

Focus: ♥ Jesus has amazing power.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

It's interesting that the crowd in today's story was surprised when Jesus healed the man who was deaf. But in their surprise and amazement, they told everyone what Jesus had done. Even though Jesus commanded them not to tell, they couldn't help themselves! Are you surprised and amazed at what Jesus has done and continues to do? Then go and tell someone. That person may be surprised too!

Lesson 2 at a Glance

		Immerse Materials	Other Materials
<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>discover what it might be like to not be able to hear or speak.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step What Did You Say?</p> <p> Option Communicating with Gestures</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slips of paper, pen, paper bag • paper, pencils, Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>tell what happened when some people asked Jesus to heal a man who could not hear or speak well.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Mark 7:31-37</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory Psalm 147:5</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 Bible Story Stick Puppets 2a, 2b/2c, and 2d-2j; <i>Teaching Picture 2</i> • stick puppets used in Bible Exploration • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 jumbo craft sticks, tape, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>name amazing things only Jesus can do.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Only Jesus</p> <p> Option That's Amazing!</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 9 • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • whiteboard, dry-erase marker
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>ask Jesus to help someone they know.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Sign It</p> <p> Option Index-Card Prayers</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 10 • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, index cards

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **discover what it might be like to not be able to hear or speak**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Quick Step What Did You Say?

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Let's find out what it might be like not to be able to hear or speak well. Be sure to do what I tell you to do.** Ask kids to place their hands over their ears. Give a simple instruction in a soft voice. The children will probably say they can't hear you very well and want you to repeat the instructions. Ask the kids to place their hands over their ears again. Place your hand over your mouth and repeat the same instructions. Give the instruction a third time, but don't speak aloud—only make gestures.

ASK: **Why didn't you do what I asked you to do?**

How did you feel when you couldn't hear or understand what I was saying? (frustrated, didn't know what to do)

How do you think I felt when you didn't do what I asked you to do? (frustrated)

SAY: **It would be hard not to be able to hear. In today's Bible story we're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has amazing power. Jesus has power to help people who can't hear or speak well.**

Option Communicating with Gestures

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Let's find out what it might be like not to be able to speak.** Ask a volunteer to draw a slip of paper from the bag. The child (or you) should act out what is written on the paper without talking, using only gestures. The rest of the class should try to guess what the person is acting out. Continue until all the sentences have been acted out.

ASK: **What are some things you like to do that would be hard to do if you could not hear and were not able to speak well?** (listen to music, talk with friends, play on a sports team)

SAY: **We're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has amazing power. Jesus has power to help people who can't hear or speak well.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

Have the children find partners (or form small groups). Give each pair a paper and pencil. SAY: **Work with your partner to make a list of things that are powerful.** Give a few minutes for kids to work. Have the pairs read their lists. Read Psalm 147:5. SAY: **This verse says the Lord is powerful. We're going to learn that ♥ Jesus has amazing power!**

Focus

♥ Jesus has amazing power.

Materials

none



If a child in your class has difficulty hearing or speaking well and may never be able to do so, you may want to choose the Option activity to introduce the lesson,

Use the lesson to help children accept and include others. Point out that everyone has something that is difficult for them to do. Regardless of our disabilities, Jesus loves us! He sees our abilities, not our disabilities. That is how we are to love others.

Materials

slips of paper, pen, paper bag



Before Class

Write the following sentences on separate slips of paper. Place the papers in a paper bag. Sentences: My dog needs a bath. I like to play with my cat. I like to ride my bike. It is raining today. I like to eat pizza. I like to play soccer. My favorite color is blue.

Materials

paper, pencils, Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ Jesus has amazing power.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2

Use all of these activities to help children **tell what happened when some people asked Jesus to heal a man who could not hear or speak well.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

The people specifically asked Jesus to place His hand on a man who couldn't hear or speak well. Jesus used a sequence of actions to heal the man, not just a touch of the hand. Jesus' actions may seem odd, but He may have been communicating to the man what He intended to do.

The word that Jesus speaks, *Ephphatha*, is Aramaic, so Mark translates the word for his readers ("Be opened"). This miracle was yet another testimony to Jesus' divine nature. A miracle of this magnitude could not be kept secret. The people began to tell others about Jesus, even though they did not have a complete grasp of who Jesus really was or what He had come to do.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

9 jumbo craft sticks; tape (or glue); whiteboard; dry-erase marker; Bibles; *Resources* sheet 3 Bible Story Stick Puppets 2a, 2b/2c, and 2d-2j; *Teaching Picture 2*



Before Class

Fold 2b/2c and attach a craft stick handle between the two halves. Attach craft sticks to the backs of 2a and 2d-2j.

Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, children can hold more than one stick puppet. If you have a large class, allow one group to use the puppets during the Bible Exploration; a second group can show the puppets during Bible Review Activity.

Bible Exploration Mark 7:31-37

Write "Mark 7:31" on the board. SAY: **Today's Bible story comes from the book of Mark. The book of Mark tells about Jesus' life, so the book is in the New Testament.** Tell kids to find the table of contents in the front of their Bibles and find the book of Mark. Help them turn to Mark 7:31. Ask a volunteer to read the verse.

Distribute the stick puppets. You will need one person to hold Jesus 2a and another to hold the man 2b/2c. Two children can be people who knew the man (2d, 2e), and five children can be people in the crowd (2f-2j). Note: If you have a smaller class, some children may need to hold more than one puppet. SAY: **You can help me tell the Bible story. When I talk about the person you are holding, use the puppet to act out that part of the story. Listen for how Jesus helped a man who couldn't hear or speak.**

SAY: **Jesus (show 2a) taught the people. He made sick people well and dead people come back to life. Now Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee in an area called Decapolis, or the Ten Cities. A crowd of people was probably with Jesus.** Show 2f-2j near Jesus.

In this area lived a man who had not been able to hear from the time he was born. Show 2b. Most people who are deaf from birth also can't speak well because they have never heard words spoken aloud. Being both deaf and unable to speak well makes it very hard to let people know what you want. In Bible times, doctors did not perform ear or throat surgeries. Therapists weren't trained to help people learn to speak.

Some very kind people who knew this man (show 2d and 2e) brought him to Jesus. Have 2b, 2d, and 2e move close to 2a. The people begged Jesus to place a hand on the man. They wanted Jesus to heal the man.

Jesus took the man away from the crowd. Move 2a and 2b away from the other puppets. Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears. Then Jesus spit and touched the man's tongue. Jesus looked up to Heaven and said, "Be opened!" Suddenly the man could hear. He also spoke clearly! Turn 2b and show 2c.

The people who had brought the man to Jesus were amazed, and so were all the people in the crowd. Show *Teaching Picture 2*. Move puppets 2d-2j near 2a and 2c. **The people said, “Jesus has done everything well.” They told others about Jesus. They said, “Jesus can make people who are deaf able to hear. He can make people who can’t talk able to speak!”** Have children repeat the phrases as they move the puppets.

Bible Review Activity

Distribute the Bible story stick puppets. Tell the kids that you will say a sentence that describes either Jesus, the man in the story, the people who brought the man to Jesus, or the crowd. If the sentence describes the figure they are holding, they should hold it up for everyone to see.

Review statements

1. I was now preaching in the area called Decapolis. (Jesus)
2. I could not hear or speak very clearly. (man who was deaf)
3. We took the man who was deaf to see Jesus. (people who knew man)
4. I put my fingers in the man’s ears and touched his tongue. (Jesus)
5. I said, “Be opened!” (Jesus)
6. After Jesus touched my ears and tongue, I could hear and speak clearly. (man)
7. We were amazed at what Jesus had done. (people, crowd)
8. We told everyone about Jesus’ power to heal. (people, crowd)

SAY: **The crowd of people saw the great miracle Jesus did. They learned that day that ♥ Jesus has amazing power.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”

Ask the kids to join you in reading the memory verse while you point to the Bible Memory shapes. Then mix up the shapes so they are no longer in memory verse order. Ask a volunteer to find the words that start off the memory verse and put that shape first. Ask for another volunteer to find the words that go next and put that shape second. Keep going until the memory verse is in order. When kids have lined up the verse correctly, lead them in saying it together. SAY: **We know how great and powerful Jesus is. We know ♥ Jesus has amazing power.**

Materials

stick puppets used in Bible Exploration (optional: *Resources* CD lesson 2 Review Questions printable file)



Teaching Tip

Use the *Resources* CD review questions to ask more questions about the story.

Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



Before Class

Attach the Bible Memory shapes vertically or horizontally to a wall or bulletin board.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print copies of the unit 1 Optional Bible Skills Activity from the *Resource* CD. Hand out copies of the second page and have the children cross out names of the books that are not in the New Testament. Say the names of the first four books of the New Testament. Ask children if they know what Bible stories are found in these four books. (stories of Jesus’ life)



Focus

♥ Jesus has amazing power.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **name amazing things only Jesus can do.**

Materials

Activities p. 9, pencils



If you choose to use the *Quick Step* activity, be prepared to assist with writing as needed. If possible, offer two or all of the Make It Real activities. Allow each child to choose the activity that is most comfortable for him.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Sentences About Jesus

Jesus has power over nature.
Jesus listens anytime we pray.
Jesus can forgive our sins.
Jesus knows everything about us.
Jesus died, but is alive today.
Jesus is always with us.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader
issue 2



Teaching Tip

Help children understand that although Jesus has power to heal, He doesn't always do that now. The Bible says there will be no crying or pain in Heaven (Revelation 21:4). Even when Jesus doesn't heal a person right now, Jesus is still with us. He cares for us and will help us when we are hurting.

Quick Step Only Jesus

SAY: Because He is the Son of God, ♥ Jesus has amazing power that no one else has. We've seen that Jesus has the power to heal someone who is deaf. Let's discover some other things only Jesus can do. Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions aloud and do the page together. Ask volunteers to read the sentences they have completed about Jesus.

ASK: Why can Jesus do such amazing things? (He is the Son of God.) Who can we trust to help us, no matter where or what the problem is? (Jesus)

Option That's Amazing!

SAY: The people in today's Bible story learned that ♥ Jesus has amazing power. Only Jesus can heal a person who is deaf by just speaking a word. Let's play a game and name some other amazing things about Jesus.

Play a game similar to Hangman. Explain that you will draw blanks on the board that spell out words in a sentence. The sentence will tell something amazing about Jesus. Let the children take turns guessing letters. If a letter is called out that appears in any of the words, write that letter in the appropriate blank(s). If the letter does not appear in any of the words, write that letter off to the side so children will remember which letters have been named. Continue until someone guesses what the sentence says. Use the sentences provided, or make up other sentences that tell amazing things about Jesus.

ASK: What do you think is most amazing about Jesus? Give an opportunity for each child to respond.

Option Story from *Weekly Bible Reader*

Read the rebus story "Grandpa Is Sick." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word.

ASK: What did Amanda and her parents do when the doctor said he did not know if her grandpa would get better? (They prayed and asked Jesus to make Grandpa better.)

What did Amanda tell the doctor about Jesus? (Jesus has the power to heal sick people.)

SAY: ♥ Jesus has amazing power. He can heal people by just saying a word. He has power over nature. He even has power over death! We can trust Jesus to always be with us, no matter where we are or what is happening.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **ask Jesus to help someone they know.**

Focus

♥ Jesus has amazing power.

Quick Step Sign It

SAY: **Maybe the man who could not hear or speak well used gestures or hand signs to let people know what he needed. Let's learn some sign language so we can tell others that ♥ Jesus has amazing power.**

Distribute the activity pages. Say each word and show children how to do each sign. Let kids practice each one several times. Have the kids do the signs to both sentences while you say the words. Then have kids say the words while doing the signs.

ASK: **Do you know someone who is sick or sad or has a big problem to solve?** Let children respond.
How could knowing about Jesus' power help that person?

Close with a time of prayer. Explain that while you pray, you and the children can do the signs for *Jesus, powerful, can, and heal*. (Note: The children will need to leave their eyes open.) Sign and PRAY: **Jesus, You are powerful. Jesus, You can heal. Please help the people we know who need Your help. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option Index-Card Prayers

SAY: **The people who brought the man to Jesus learned that ♥ Jesus has amazing power. You probably know people who need Jesus' help too. Maybe you know someone who is sick or very sad about something. Maybe you know someone who has a hard time doing something she really wants to be able to do. You can ask Jesus to help these people. Let's write some index-card prayers. We'll ask Jesus to help the people named on our cards.**

Give each child a pencil and one or two index cards. Encourage the children to write simple sentence prayers on their cards, such as "God, please help my friend Benjamin to feel better." When everyone has finished writing, gather in a prayer circle. Read each card. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We know Jesus has amazing power. We want Jesus to help people we know who need His help. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Materials

Activities p. 10



Teaching Tip

If you're still not sure how to do the signs correctly, look on the Internet. There are several sites that show how to do signs.

Materials

pencils, index cards



Teaching Tips

Give assistance as needed to beginning writers. Rather than writing sentence prayers, children could just write on a card the name of a person they want to pray for.

Keep the cards in the classroom and follow up on the prayer requests next week. Or let the children take their cards home as prayer reminders.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't See

Lesson 3



Scripture: John 9:1-11, 24, 25, 35-38

Bible Memory: Psalm 147:5

Focus: ♥ We should believe in Jesus.




Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Jesus gave the man who was blind a very straightforward instruction: “Go wash in the Pool.” The Bible says the man simply did what Jesus asked him to do, and the man was healed. Jesus gives us many straightforward instructions: “Go and make disciples.” “Love your neighbor as yourself.” “Let your light shine.” “Do not worry about your life.” Will you simply do what Jesus asks you to do today?

Lesson 3 at a Glance

1 FOCUS IN

Use one or more of these activities to help children *discover what it might be like to be blind.*

-  **Quick Step**
Drawing Blind
-  **Option**
Eating Blind
-  **Bible Memory**
Introduce the Bible Memory verse.





Immerse Materials

Other Materials

- blindfolds, whiteboard, dry-erase markers and erasers
- several kinds of food (see activity), napkins, blindfolds
- Bible

2 EXPLORE HIS WORD

Use these activities to help children *tell what happened when Jesus healed a man and showed God's power.*




-  **Bible Exploration**
John 9:1-11, 24, 25, 35-38
-  **Bible Review Activity**
-  **Bible Memory**
Psalm 147:5
-  **Optional Bible Skill Builder**

- *Resources* sheet 4 Bible Story Time Line and Puppet 3a/3b and 3c-3g, *Teaching Picture* 3
- *Activities* p. 11, stick puppet 3a/3b used for Bible Exploration, *Resources* CD lesson 3 Review Questions printable file
- *Resources* sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes

- whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, tape, jumbo craft stick, reusable adhesive
- pencils, CD with active songs, CD player
- Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive

3 MAKE IT REAL

Use one of these activities to help children *tell how believing in Jesus can help others and them.*

-  **Quick Step**
Believe in Jesus
-  **Option**
Power Up
-  **Option**
Story from *Weekly Bible Reader*

- *Activities* p. 12
- *Weekly Bible Reader* issue 3

- markers
- clear drinking cup, plastic buttons, clear carbonated soda drink

4 LIVE IT OUT

Use one of these activities to help children *show they believe in Jesus.*

-  **Quick Step**
“We Believe” Relay
-  **Option**
Show Your Belief
- Saying Good-bye**

- *Weekly Bible Reader* issue 3

- baton (or small Bible)
- blank note cards and envelopes, markers, stickers

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore what it might be like to be blind**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Quick Step Drawing Blind

Have children gather near a whiteboard. Explain that you will be doing an activity that will help the children understand what it might be like to be blind. Ask two or three kids to stand by the board. Blindfold the kids, hand them each a marker, and ask them each to draw an outline of a person. When they are done, take off their blindfolds so they can see their artwork. Give all children an opportunity to draw.

ASK: **What are some things you like to do that would be very hard to do if you were blind?** (ride a bike, watch TV, read, use a computer)

SAY: **In the Bible story today, we're going to learn about a man who was blind. The man learned that he could believe in Jesus. ♥ We should believe in Jesus too.**

Option Eating Blind

Have the children gather at tables. Explain that children will be doing an activity that will help them discover what it might be like to be blind. Do not let the kids see the food. Put blindfolds on all the children. (Or ask for volunteers who want to wear blindfolds.) Tell the children that you are going to put small pieces of food on napkins in front of them. They are to pick up the food and eat it. Reassure kids that all the objects are safe to eat. After kids have tried the food items, ask them to tell what they ate.

ASK: **How did you feel, picking up something and eating it without knowing what it was?** (afraid, didn't want to do it)
How did you feel not being able to see? (strange, frustrated)

SAY: **It would be hard not to be able to see. In the Bible story today, we're going to learn about a man who was blind. The man believed in Jesus. ♥ We should believe in Jesus too.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

SAY: **Our Bible Memory verse tells us that our Lord is great and mighty in power.** Read Psalm 147:5. Have the children choose partners. One person in the pair should say, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power." The partner will reply, "His understanding has no limit." Let all pairs practice saying the verse to each other. Then have the pairs say the entire verse three times together, starting very softly and getting louder each time. **We're going to learn again today just how powerful Jesus is. ♥ We should believe in Jesus.**

Focus

♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Materials

blindfolds, whiteboard, dry-erase markers and erasers (optional: drawing paper, markers)



Teaching Tip

If you do not have a whiteboard available, provide drawing paper and markers.

Materials

several kinds of food (marshmallows, raisins, mild cheese, cracker), small candies, napkins, blindfolds



When serving food, always be aware of children's food allergies.

Recognize children's sensitivities. Children who experience tactile defensiveness (touch sensitivity) might want to avoid using a blindfold.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what happened when Jesus healed a man and showed God's power.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

The man who was blind was a beggar. This was about the only way that someone who was blind could support himself. The Pool of Siloam was located near the temple in Jerusalem. People who were poor or sick came to the pool to bathe.

Jesus cured the man by spitting on the ground and making mud to apply to the man's eyes. Isaiah records that the Messiah would give sight to the blind (Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:7). Jesus' miracles were evidence that He was the Messiah.

It is no wonder that the healing attracted the attention of the man's neighbors. They knew him only as a man who was blind and begged to make a living. The Pharisees and the people couldn't believe that Jesus had given sight to the man. But the man not only believed; he also worshipped Jesus.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 4 Bible Story Time Line and Puppet 3a/3b and 3c-3g, tape (or glue), jumbo craft stick, *Teaching Picture 3*, reusable adhesive (optional: self-adhesive magnetic strip)



Before Class

Attach scene 3c to the left side of 3d, creating a 5-panel time line. Display the time line on a wall (or whiteboard). Fold the stick puppet in half and attach a craft stick between the halves.

How to Say it

Siloam (Sigh-lo-um)

Teaching Tip

To display story figures on a whiteboard, attach small pieces of self-adhesive magnetic strip to the backs of the pieces.

Bible Exploration John 9:1-11, 24, 25, 35-38

Write "John 9:1" on the board. SAY: **Today's Bible story comes from the book of John. Let's find John in our Bibles.** Help the children use the table of contents in their Bibles to find the book of John. Help them turn to John 9:1, and ask a volunteer to read the verse.

SAY: **Let's travel with a blind man through the events of an amazing day. You can do some actions he might have done. Listen for what the man's response was to Jesus.** Show 3a in front of scene 3c. **One day as Jesus and some of His followers walked along a road, they saw a man who couldn't see. The man had never seen his parents, his home, or a beautiful sunrise. He had lived in darkness since he was born. Since the man could not see, he could not get a job. He had to beg to get money.** Have children hold out hands and pretend to beg.

Move 3a in front of 3d. **Jesus stopped by the man. Jesus knelt down and spit on the ground. Then He made some mud with the dirt. The blind man probably didn't know what Jesus was doing. Maybe the man tried to listen closely so he could tell what was going on.** Cup hands behind ears.

Move 3a in front of 3e. **When Jesus stood up, He put the mud on the man's eyes! Maybe the man put his hands to his face and felt the mud.** Touch around closed eyes. **"Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam," Jesus said.**

Move 3a in front of scene 3f. **The Pool of Siloam was a place where people who were poor or sick went to bathe. Maybe someone led the man to the pool. Maybe he had a walking cane and could get to the pool by himself. The Bible only tells us that the man did what Jesus said.** Show *Teaching Picture 3*. Have children pretend to wash their eyes. **When the man washed the mud off, he could see!** Turn 3a to show 3b. Children can open eyes wide.

Move 3b in front of 3g. **People who lived in that area had seen this man begging. They were amazed that he could now see. "Look! Can this be the man who used to sit here and beg?"** asked his neighbors. Some

people said, “No, it couldn’t be the same man. He just looks like that man.”

“I am the man,” he said. Children can point to themselves and nod.

The people asked him, “What happened? Why can you see?”

The man told the people what Jesus had done. He said, “Jesus put some mud on my eyes. Touch around closed eyes. He told me to go wash it off, and I did. Pretend to wash eyes. Now I can see!” Open eyes wide.

The people asked the man how Jesus had healed him. The man said, “I don’t know. Shrug shoulders. One thing I do know. Point to forehead. I was blind. Close eyes. Now I see!” Open eyes wide.

Later Jesus found the man and talked with him. Jesus asked the man if he believed in Him. The man said, “Lord, I believe.” Then the man worshipped Jesus. Have children kneel, as though bowing before Jesus.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **What was the man’s response to Jesus?** (“Lord, I believe.” He worshipped Jesus.)

SAY: **Let’s see what else you remember from the Bible story.** Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions aloud and do the page together. Then have the children sit in a circle. Give one child the stick puppet. The children should pass the puppet while you play a song. When the song is paused, the person holding the puppet can answer a question about the Bible story. Use the *Resources* CD review questions. Give each child an opportunity to answer a question. SAY: **The crowd of people learned that Jesus has the power to make people who are blind able to see. The man learned to believe in Jesus. ♥ We should believe in Jesus too.**

Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”

Before class, attach the Bible Memory shapes either vertically or horizontally to a wall (or bulletin board or yardstick). Write “Psalm 147:5” on the board. Guide children to find Psalm 147:5 in their Bibles, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse. Show the Bible Memory shapes. Ask the kids to join you in reading the memory verse while you point to the words. Randomly remove one shape at a time. After each shape is removed, have the kids say the entire verse, saying from memory the words on the missing shape. Continue until the children are saying the entire verse by memory. SAY: **Jesus is great and powerful. We’ve learned again that Jesus has the power to heal. ♥ We should believe in Jesus.**

Option

Play the Bible story from the *Resources* CD track 2. Tell children to imagine they are listening to the man whose eyes were healed by Jesus. Ask questions and have the children tell facts about the story.



Materials

Activities p. 11, pencils, stick puppet 3a/3b used for Bible Exploration, CD with active songs, CD player, *Resources* CD lesson 3 Review Questions printable file



Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 3 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



Optional Bible Skill Builder

If you did not use the unit 1 Optional Bible Skills Activities in lessons 1 and 2, do the pages together now. Display the Old and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask volunteers to find and point to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John on the posters. Ask if children know what Bible stories are found in the first four books of the New Testament. (stories of Jesus’ life)



Focus

♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **tell how believing in Jesus can help others and them.**

Materials

Activities p. 12, markers (or colored pencils)



Teaching Tip

Remind children that Jesus always does what is best for us. Jesus heals in different ways—and not always in the way we want.

Materials

clear drinking cup (plastic or glass), plastic buttons (any size), clear carbonated soda drink



Teaching Tips

Practice object talks before class. Start the demonstration with a fresh bottle or can of soda.

How Does It Work?

When the button is dropped into the soda, carbon dioxide bubbles begin to stick to the button. Once enough bubbles stick to it, the button will rise.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 3



Quick Step Believe in Jesus

SAY: The man whose eyes were healed believed in Jesus. When we believe in someone, we trust the person. We are certain the person can and will do what he says he will do. We know the things that are said about the person are true.

ASK: Why can we believe in Jesus? (He is the Son of God. Jesus always does what He says He will do. People who saw what Jesus did wrote about His power. We can read these truths in the Bible.)

SAY: Let's look at some pictures and tell how believing in Jesus can help the people in the pictures. Distribute activity pages and markers. Discuss each pictured situation and let the children tell how believing in Jesus could help the people. Give time for the children to draw pictures in the blank area. Ask for volunteers to share what they have drawn. **SAY: Jesus cares for us. He has power to help us. ♥ We should believe in Jesus.**

Option Power Up



SAY: Just like the man whose eyes were opened by Jesus, we can believe in Jesus' power to help us. Let's do an experiment to show how believing in Jesus can help others and us. Fill a glass about two-thirds full with carbonated soda. Give each child a plastic button. Tell the children their buttons represent a problem that they or someone they know might have. Ask each child to name a problem. When the problem is named, the child can drop his button into the glass of soda and observe what happens. At first, the button will sink; then it will rise, regardless of the size.

SAY: Jesus's power is like the soda in our glass. If we hold on to our problems or try to take care of them ourselves, we usually still have the problems. But when we give our problems to Jesus and believe in His power to help us, He has the power to make the problems rise and be lighter—or even go away! ♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

Read the rebus story “A Special Service.” Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word.

ASK: What did the people in the church do to help the boy who had been sick? (prayed for Him, believed Jesus could help him) **Why did the people worship Jesus?** (Jesus had answered their prayers.)

SAY: When we believe in Jesus, we can do things that will help others and us. ♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **show they believe in Jesus.**

Focus

♥ We should believe in Jesus.

Quick Step “We Believe” Relay

Have the children stand in a circle, standing as far apart from one another as space allows. Show the baton. SAY: **On a relay team, the team members sometimes pass a baton from one person to the next. It’s important for each person to do his or her part to take the baton and then pass it safely to the next person. As followers of Jesus, ♥ we should believe in Jesus. And we should tell others what we believe about Jesus. Let’s be a relay team and name things we believe about Jesus.**

Explain that you will name something you believe about Jesus. Then you will hand the baton to the person on your right. That person should name something she believes about Jesus and pass the baton to the next person. Give some examples, if needed, and then begin the activity. If you have a smaller class, pass the baton to each person more than once. For a large class, form two circles. Children may be surprised at how many things they can name that they believe about Jesus.

ASK: **What is your favorite thing to believe about Jesus? Is there anything you think is hard to believe about Jesus?** Accept and encourage children’s honesty. Be willing to share something you find hard to believe about Jesus.

Option Show Your Belief

Before class, obtain a list of people in your congregation who cannot get out to church services due to their age or an illness. Print the name and address of each individual on an envelope.

SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should believe in Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, we can show others what we believe. Let’s make cards to send to some people who can’t come to our church services. The cards will show them that we believe in Jesus and we believe Jesus is with them.**

Read the names on the envelopes. If possible, tell something about each person. Give the children blank note cards and let them decorate cards with drawings or stickers. Encourage children to write simple statements of belief inside each card, such as “We believe Jesus has power to help you.” When the cards are ready, pray for the people who will receive the cards. Stamp and mail the cards after class.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class. Distribute the *Activities* page 2 Unit 1 Bible Memory Shapes and stickers, if you have not already done so.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Materials

baton (or small Bible)



Teaching Tip

If you do not have a baton available, you can use a small Bible and pass it around the circle. Encourage children to handle God’s Word carefully, just as they would a relay baton.

Sample Statements

We believe . . .
Jesus is God’s Son.
Jesus stopped a storm.
Jesus is always with us.
Jesus loves us.

Materials

blank note cards and envelopes, markers, stickers



This activity can help every child make a connection to the lesson. To make the activity more concrete, provide pictures of the people for whom kids are making cards.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.

